

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2007. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that a preliminary amendment was filed on April 18, 2005. It appears that the previous Office Action did not take into account the claims (claims 1-13) presented in the preliminary amendment.

By the above amendment, claims 1, 5, 9 and 11-13 are amended; and claim 14 is newly presented. Thus, claims 1-14 are currently pending in the present application. The indicated allowability of claims 2-10 is sincerely appreciated.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments. To facilitate entry of the changes, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming (U.S. Patent No. 3,777, 931). It is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by amended claim 1, now clearly distinguishes over the Fleming reference for the following reasons.

The present invention, as defined in claim 1, requires that the cassette (2) includes a cover (6) that covers all of the linearly arranged medicines contained in the cassette. As will be

discussed below, this limitation defines a fundamental difference between the prior art dispenser and the present invention.

Fleming discloses a napkin dispenser including an elongated chamber 12, a movable pressure plate (24), springs for normally biasing the plate, a cover (face plate) 60, means on the cover for moving a catch bar 44 to an operative position when the cover is open (col. 4, lines 59-67; Fig. 2) and to an inoperative position when the cover is closed (col. 4, lines 53-59; Fig. 1). As described in col. 4, line 33-41, the cover 60 covers the open upper end of the elongated chamber 12 and permits dispensing of napkins, one at a time, through slotted opening 62. In the Fleming dispenser, when the cover is open, only the top napkin is exposed. However, in the present invention, as now defined in claim 1, when the cover 6 is open, all of the linearly arranged articles (ampules) are exposed. This feature is shown in Fig. 5 of the present invention.

Since the Fleming cover is mounted at an end of the elongated chamber (cassette) 12, it exposes only the uppermost napkin of the stack of napkins contained in the chamber 12. Thus, claim 1, as amended, now clearly distinguishes over the Fleming reference. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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